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Third-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Name	Scores
1	Kristoffer Ventura	67-64-67 – 198 (-15)
2	Lanto Griffin	67-68-64 – 199 (-14)
3	Tyson Alexander	66-66-70 – 202 (-11)
T4	Four players tied	203 (-10)

Ventura leads Griffin by one entering final round at Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Chevrolet

Omaha, Neb. – It was pure happenstance that Kristoffer Ventura and Lanto Griffin sat next to each other earlier this week at a Korn Ferry Tour champions dinner.

It won't be their last pairing of the week.

A 4-under 67 kept Ventura atop the leaderboard for the second straight day Saturday at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Chevrolet, though Griffin trails by only a stroke after a third-round best 7-under 64.

The pair will play together Sunday for the first time in their careers, while Tyson Alexander will join them in a threesome with heavy rains expected in the forecast. The 31-year-old is four shots back at 11-under 202.

"I was so happy more than anything to sit across from guys who have won this year who are really good players," Ventura said. "... That will be fun, for sure. From sitting next to each other to playing together."

Ventura, who sits at 15-under 198 after 54 holes, built on his cushion early with three front-nine birdies. But strong afternoon wind gusts led to bogeys on Nos. 12 and 13, and Griffin took advantage with a stellar round that included three consecutive birdies and an eagle to start his day.

The pair were deadlocked at 13 under until Ventura regained the lead for good with birdies on Nos. 15 and 16.

"You've got to stay patient out here," Ventura said. "Just knowing my ball-striking, short game and putting is good enough, if I get in trouble I'm not freaking out or anything. It's been paying off. I told my agent and my parents that I'm going to do everything I can to prepare my best. If I do that, I'll be happy no matter what happens."

At No. 22 on the points list, Ventura can secure his PGA TOUR card with a second win of the year. Griffin, ranked No. 5, already has his locked up. But that will have little impact on the final 18 holes at The Club at Indian Creek, he said.

"It's not like I'm going to be out there going, 'Hey, I got my TOUR card, whatever happens, happens,'" Griffin said. "I want to win; I want to play well. That's why I'm here. Tomorrow is going to be an interesting day. Kristoffer's got a lot on the line, but hopefully I can go out there and be calm and see what happens."

With sweltering heat this week in Omaha, Griffin got little practice in between tournament rounds prior to Saturday. But it didn't seem to matter when he opened with a 5-foot birdie on No. 1 and followed with 15- and 20-foot birdie putts on the ensuring two holes. He then stuck his approach shot inside 5 feet at the par-5 fourth. He added two more birdies after the making the turn in what was a bogey-free round.

"You've got to have streaks like that to win golf tournaments and be in contention," he said. "It was nice to get off to a good start. I was proud of myself for staying in the moment and not really overthinking it."

Ventura understands what is at stake for him over the final 18 holes. And in the past, it might have gotten the best of him.

Perhaps sage advice over dinner with fellow champions helped with that.

"That's what everyone talks about. That's all I hear. 'You're projected this, if you win you'll be there,'" he said. "At this point, I just play golf. I told my caddie to take it one shot at a time. It's a huge cliché, but it's hard to stay away. You see it on Twitter and Instagram.

"At this point I'm just going to keep doing what I'm doing and see where that ends up. In the past, I would have been really focused on it looking at leaderboards. Now I'm just focusing on my own thing."

SATURDAY NOTES:

- * Saturday's weather: Sunny, high of 93 with a heat index of 104, winds 10-15 mph with gusts up to 20 mph.

- * Rookie Kristoffer Ventura holds the 54-hole lead for the first time in his Korn Ferry Tour career.

- * Ventura looks to become the 10th 54-leader/co-leader to go on and win this season. Nelson Ledesma accomplished the feat last week at the TPC Colorado Championship at Heron Lakes.

- * With a victory tomorrow, Ventura would join Robby Shelton and Xijun Zhang as the only players to win twice this year. A victory would also secure his PGA TOUR card for the 2019-20 season.

- * Three weeks ago, Ventura erased a three-stroke final-round deficit to win the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank.
- * Lanto Griffin, who sits alone in second place, also looks to join Shelton and Zhang as players to win multiple events this season. Griffin won the inaugural Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Championship earlier this year and has secured his spot in The 25.
- * Griffin fired the low round of the day, posting a bogey-free 7-under 64.
- * Tyson Alexander, who is alone in third, is in search of his first Korn Ferry Tour title. His best finish to date is a T7, which came earlier this season at the Utah Championship presented by Zions Bank.
- * First-round leader Byron Meth sits T4 at 10-under 203, five strokes off the lead.
- * Denzel Iermia and MJ Daffue, who join six others in a tie for ninth, lead the five Monday qualifiers that made the cut at 6-under 207. With top-25 finishes on Sunday, both players would secure a spot in next week's Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper.
- * Rookie Andy Zhang (T9, 6-under) matched his low round of the season with a 65 on Saturday.
- * Omaha, Neb., native Scott Gutschewski sits T17 after a third-round 73. Gutschewski finished in a tie for second at the inaugural Pinnacle Bank Championship in 2017.
- * Norfolk, Neb., native Luke Kluver (T66, +5) posted a 5-over 76 on Saturday after opening the week with rounds of 71. Kluver, playing as an amateur this week, converted an up-and-down on the 18th hole on Friday to make the cut.
- * This week's purse is \$600,000, with \$108,000 going to the champion. The winner will also receive 500 Korn Ferry Tour points.
- * Forty-seven Korn Ferry Tour winners are in the field this week, combining for 70 victories.
- * The par-3 fifth hole (218 yards) ranked as the toughest hole on the course Saturday, playing to an average of 3.224.
- * The par-5 15th hole (573 yards) ranked as the easiest hole on Saturday. The hole played to an average of 4.313 and yielded three eagles and 42 birdies.

***The Club at Indian Creek Scoring Average:**

	Front	Back	Total	Cumulative
R1	36.436	35.327	71.763	
R2	36.285	35.132	71.417	71.590
R3	36.060	34.776	70.836	71.339

*For highlights from today's round, or any 2019 event visit <http://bit.ly/kornferry2019video>
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